

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **PUBLIC ACCESS, NATURAL RESOURCE RELATED RECREATION, AND EDUCATION**

The Marine Corps allows access to natural resources to the extent appropriate and consistent with the military mission, safety and security requirements, and the sustainability of natural resources. Further, it is Marine Corps policy that "...a program for outdoor recreational developments will be created in consultation with the Department of the Interior and appropriate state agency" (HQMC 1998).

Many recreational activities that occur on Camp Pendleton occur within cantonment areas (e.g., fitness centers, swimming pools, bowling allies, tennis courts, athletic fields, concert grounds, and cinemas). However, this plan only covers natural resource related recreational opportunities which are broadly defined to include activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, beach access, hiking, jogging, bicycling, and horseback riding. Recreational activities are only allowed in areas not being used for military training and when security, natural resource and fire conditions allow. The AC/S O&T may close portions of the Base to recreational activities because of security, military training requirements, fires, inclement weather, or wildlife management concerns. In training areas, most recreational activities are limited to weekends and holiday periods to reduce conflicts with training exercises. San Onofre State Park provides public access and recreational opportunities year round in its 4 miles of beach (25% of the Base's coastline) and 2000 acres leased from Camp Pendleton.

DoD bases and stations are authorized to execute cooperative agreements with other state and local agencies or institutions for the exchange of information or conducting research or study projects that will contribute to the installation's integrated natural resources management program. Consultation with state and other federal agencies regarding outdoor recreation plans is an informal process. With the passage of the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997, this INRMP now replaces former requirements for a cooperative agreement or plan. Authorizations for issuance of permits and collection of fees for access to natural resource-dependent outdoor recreation were reiterated in the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997.

A nominal fee for participation in each program established on Camp Pendleton may be charged under this authorization. Fees or proceeds from these programs are used for management and enhancement of fish and wildlife programs on Camp Pendleton. All recreational activities, including fishing and hunting, at Camp Pendleton are subject to applicable federal laws, state laws, and Base regulations. Legislation and regulations relevant to natural resources related recreation management are summarized in Appendix B.

Outleases and recreation programs on Base provide access to natural resources through a variety of activities for Base personnel and members of the general public. To illustrate the facilities and opportunities available, Table 5-1 presents general categories and the recreational facilities/resources available to each patron.

**TABLE 5-1. Camp Pendleton recreational facilities/resources available.**

Patron Category	Recreational Facilities/Resources Available
1. Active duty and retired military personnel, Medal of Honor recipients, etc. Family members (spouses, children, and dependent parents) of active duty, reserve, or retired military personnel. This includes surviving spouses, children, and dependent parents of service members who died while on active duty or who were Medal of Honor recipients. Family members of foreign military personnel assigned to the U.S. Armed forces. Employees of the Red Cross and their family members who are required to reside aboard Camp Pendleton. Civilian employees in a temporary duty status who are residing aboard Camp Pendleton. MCCA employees.	Everything.
2. ROTC members, under orders, who are conducting summer training or orientation visits to Camp Pendleton.	Everything except Del Mar and San Onofre Beach Cottages.
3. Civilian employees and visitors to Camp Pendleton (upon approval of the CG or local commander).	Same as General Public.
4. Active duty personnel of the Armed Forces of a foreign nation visiting Camp Pendleton.	Same as General Public with additional access to Retail Division (exchanges, stores, service stations, etc.) and Service Division (video/car rentals, beauty/barber/tailor shops, etc.).
5. Federal employees who work on Camp Pendleton. Family members of federal employees in programs specifically approved by the CG.	Everything except Del Mar and San Onofre Beach Cottages, Retail Division facilities and most Service Division facilities.
6. General Public (civilians unaffiliated with the military and unaccompanied by a Base employee or military affiliate).	<p>Food establishments (such as Subway, McDonalds, etc., not Clubs), vending machines and pay phones.</p> <p>Hunting/fishing, live bands/concerts, museum (by appt), outdoor races (biking, runs, marathons), bicycling (via Old Hwy 101 transit route), self-guided tour.</p> <p>San Onofre State Park, beach and inland hiking, undeveloped camping (Red Beach), bicycling, surfing, beach access.</p>

The program goals, objectives, and planned actions presented in this chapter were developed and prioritized to support Camp Pendleton's approach to public access and natural resource related recreation. Where planned actions support more than one management program objective they are repeated under different subsections within the chapter. Several

organizations on Base are involved in the administration and coordination of different aspects of public access and recreation. These organizations are included in the descriptions of the programs within this chapter.

## **5.1 PUBLIC ACCESS**

Military and nonmilitary agencies and individuals may be granted access to the Base to conduct research, to use training facilities (e.g., for local law enforcement training), for cultural resource related reasons, to go on organized field tours, or for other special purposes such as Scouting events and high school proms. The Consolidated Public Affairs Office publishes a self-guided tour along primary roads of the Base to introduce visitors to historical and ecological points of interest. Special events sponsored or hosted by Base organizations, ranging from the annual rodeo and “mud runs” to outdoor music concerts are open to the general public. However, only natural resources related recreational and educational opportunities on Base are described in this chapter.

Long term access to the Base is granted to public or governmental entities for nonmilitary purposes in the form of real estate agreements, including leases and easements. This has enabled public access to the San Onofre State Park and includes the vehicle transit access provided on the Interstate 5 corridor.

Public access on Camp Pendleton is restricted for the safety of visitors and security, antiterrorism and force protection requirements of Camp Pendleton to ensure the safety of personnel and mission-essential property and resources aboard the Base. Overall access control is implemented through protective measures and specific actions required to reduce vulnerability to known or anticipated terrorist or other criminal attack. These protective measures and actions are implemented by all DoD components in accordance with the Terrorist Threat Condition System (THREATCON). The THREATCON system describes five progressive levels of protective measures required in response to terrorist threats identified through local and national level intelligence community assessments. These five THREATCON levels are:

- **NORMAL** – Applies when a general threat of possible terrorist activities exist but warrants only a routine security posture.
- **ALPHA** – Applies when there is a general threat of possible terrorist activity against personnel and installations, the nature and extent of which are unpredictable.
- **BRAVO** – Applies when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists.
- **CHARLIE** – Applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action against personnel and installations is imminent.
- **DELTA** – Applies in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence has been received that terrorist action against a specific location is likely.

At levels above NORMAL security requirements may result in the curtailment of or increased restriction on public access for natural resource programs addressed in this INRMP or other purposes. These restrictions may be basewide or localized as to time, location or activity. THREATCON levels may change at anytime without warning or notification and may not follow sequentially through all five levels.

GOAL: Provide public access to the Base for natural resource related recreational and educational opportunities that are compatible with the military mission and natural resource sustainability.

### **5.1.1 Public Access Policy and Coordination**

Several organizations on Camp Pendleton are involved in the granting of public access to the Base. The role of these organizations and the general policy of such access for nonmilitary functions are described in Base Order 5720.16A (Policies and Procedures for Non-Military Use of Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton). The Base organization(s) involved in granting access depends largely upon the location and nature of the activity to occur on Base. In some instances, such as the San Onofre State Park (administered by California State Parks), public access is coordinated through a lease holding agency.

AC/S O&T is the coordinating agency for all military and nonmilitary organizations desiring to use training ranges, training areas, and airspace on Base. AC/S O&T also provides organizations and agencies external to the Base with Base use request forms and procedure instructions upon request.

The AC/S MCCC manages, coordinates and operates recreational activities that are dependent on developed facilities, such as the equestrian facilities, golf course and developed campgrounds. Recreational activities that are natural resources dependent are under the management of the Resource Management Division of AC/S Environmental Security and are administered by the Resources Enforcement and Compliance Branch (game wardens) with assistance from professional staff biologists. AC/S ES serves as the coordinating agency for the use of Camp Pendleton for such natural resources related usage as: grazing, hiking, hunting, fishing, and non developed camping. AC/S ES, in turn, coordinates such activities that involve the use of training lands with AC/S O&T. Public access to MCAS is coordinated through the MCAS Operations Officer. Lastly, the Director of the Consolidated Public Affairs Office serves as the coordinating agency for all use and access of Camp Pendleton by the media.

MCB Camp Pendleton incurs costs, both direct and indirect, when Base facilities, training areas, and ranges are used. It is Base policy that all reimbursable costs be recovered. All nonmilitary organizations are required to have a real estate license to use facilities at Camp Pendleton and, with the exception of those granted waivers of fees by the Commanding General, will be charged a usage fee (BO 5720.16A).

Requests for use of Camp Pendleton facilities by nonmilitary organizations must be received ninety (90) days prior to the first day of the requested activity (BO 5720.16A). Requests for field trips need to be submitted to the Consolidated Public Affairs Office at least 60 days in advance along with proof of liability insurance. Field trip requests are typically limited due to staffing constraints and training area availability.

**OBJECTIVE:** Improve public awareness of access and the opportunities for access, where compatible with the military mission and natural resource sustainability.

*Priority Planned Actions:*

- Annually review recreational coordination procedures for use of training areas with recreation program managers and land managers. Ongoing.
- Develop a Camp Pendleton natural and cultural resource presentation to provide information and awareness to new Base personnel, interested community groups, and others. 2002. [Also applies to Section 5.5.]
- Update and complete the Outdoor Recreation Plan. 2003.
- Evaluate the feasibility and desirability of expanding inland/freshwater fishing opportunities to the general public. 2004. [Also applies to Sections 4.4.5; 5.2.2.]

*Other Planned Actions:*

- Revise and publish an updated “Welcome to Camp Pendleton” flier as needed. \*
- Identify opportunities to provide public access to natural resource related activities to demonstrate Camp Pendleton’s success at conserving natural resources. [Also applies to Section 5.5.] \*

### **5.1.2 Real Estate Agreements: Leases, Easements, etc.**

Camp Pendleton allows reoccurring use of 28,500 acres (22.8%) of the Base to non military organizations through leases, easements, outgrants, etc. These agreements include easements for public utilities (e.g., SONGS, SDG&E pipelines, and telephone cables); transit corridors (e.g., I-5); leases to public recreational, educational, and organizations (e.g., San Onofre State Park, Boy Scouts of America, and Fallbrook and Oceanside School Districts); and agricultural leases for row crop production, seed collection, and grazing.

**OBJECTIVE:** Ensure that all real estate agreements are compatible and consistent with Camp Pendleton military mission, natural resources management, and public access policies.

*Priority Planned Actions:*

- Review all new leases and the renewal of existing leases for compliance with Base natural resource management goals and programs including terms and conditions of USFWS programmatic biological opinions. Ongoing.
- Ensure that Base recreation program managers are involved in the review of any lease involving recreational activities. Ongoing.
- Ensure compliance of lease and easement holders with the terms of their respective real estate agreements. Ongoing.
- Unless granted a waiver of fees by the Commanding General, ensure that the Base receives a fair market use fee for all non DoD use of Camp Pendleton. Ongoing.
- Establish standardized criteria for the length and conditions of long term leases and easements. 2004.

## **5.2 HUNTING AND FISHING**

Camp Pendleton's hunting and fishing program dates as far back as the early 1950s with the development of the *Cooperative Plan for the Conservation and Management of Fish and Wildlife Resources Aboard Camp Pendleton*, signed by DoI, DoD, and CDFG in August 1963.

The Base hunting and fishing program is managed in cooperation with the CDFG and is in compliance with California law and the annual framework established by CDFG. Section 640, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (Management of Fish and Wildlife on Military Lands) and Sections 3450 through 3453 of California Fish and Game Code allow the Base sufficient flexibility in administering its hunting and fishing program to avoid conflicts with military training. The Base has coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Game to revise its deer hunting management approach on Camp Pendleton to improve hunting opportunities. A change in the season opening dates helped to reduce restrictions to hunting area access historically imposed by the high fire danger common during deer hunting season. The result has been excellent military and civilian participation and perennially high hunter success rates. In the case of deer, the Base has maintained rates of deer reproduction and hunter success consistent with the remainder of California. In addition, the Base has traditionally invited the California Fish and Game personnel to participate in conducting helicopter surveys of pre-hunt deer populations.

The AC/S ES Resource Management Division administers the Base hunting and fishing programs. Base biologists review limits established by the state and set quotas at or below those limits. Base game wardens issue permits, check users in and out of areas, collect data on species harvested, and enforce state as well as Base game regulations. Base Hunting and

Fishing Regulations, which are based largely on the states' current regulations, and are published in Chapter 13 of the Base Order P5000.2J (Base Regulations). Base Hunting and Fishing Regulations are subject to change to accommodate training, mission, and environmental concerns and may not be reflected in the most current Base Regulations.

**GOAL:** Provide mission compatible and ecologically sustainable hunting and fishing opportunities that enhance quality of life for military personnel, dependents, and the public.

## 5.2.1 Recreational Hunting

Recreational hunting occurs most of the year and includes small/upland game, deer, and waterfowl hunting (Table 5-2). Hunting is allowed over most areas of the Base when not in use for military training. Hunting is not permitted in dud-producing impact areas, most cantonment areas, areas of reduced habitat (e.g., recently burned), and areas with sensitive vegetation and habitat. It is allowed within some non dud-producing impact areas if no training is occurring. Hunting is allowed before and after working hours (0730-1600) on Wednesdays and all day on holidays and weekends in areas not in use for military training.

**TABLE 5-2. Hunting seasons on Camp Pendleton.**

Species <sup>a</sup>	Dates <sup>b</sup>	Limit
Mourning Dove	1 September to mid-September, and Early November to mid-December	10 per day; 20 in possession
California Quail	mid-October to late January	10 per day; 20 in possession
Band-Tailed Pigeon	mid-December to late-December	2 per day; 2 in possession
Waterfowl	mid-October to late-June	Variable by species
Deer (archery)	October to mid-December	1 per day; 1 in possession
Deer (rifle)	November to early-December	1 per day; 1 in possession
Ground Squirrel	Year round	None
Brush Rabbit and Cottontail Rabbit	1 July to 30 January	5 per day; 5 in possession
Jackrabbit	Year round	None

<sup>a</sup> Species may be added to or removed from this list, depending upon resource needs and as long as state and federal hunting regulations are met.

<sup>b</sup> Actual dates of hunting periods vary. The Resources Enforcement/Compliance Branch publishes specific dates annually.

The number of hunters allowed in each hunting area is based on the size of the area, vegetation, fire frequency, road access, game species population levels, game warden availability, and/or cumulative harvest for the current season. This allows Camp Pendleton to spread hunter pressure across the Base and avoid too much pressure on any single area and helps to provide a quality hunting experience while better managing game populations.

Hunting is available to active duty military, retired service members, DoD employees, dependents and civilian hunters. In addition to holding a valid state hunting license, hunters must hold a valid Base Hunting Permit, which may be purchased from the Game Wardens. The CDFG typically issues 480 deer tags annually to the Base for the Camp Pendleton Special Hunt (zone G-10). Camp Pendleton determines the distribution of these tags between military and civilian hunters. Additionally, civilian permits for small/upland game species are issued by Camp Pendleton. Hunters with disabilities may coordinate necessary amenities with game warden staff. Staff can assist with the placement of hunters in more accessible areas, provide field chairs, etc. The Base restricts hunting to daylight hours and may limit the take of some species beyond which would otherwise be legally allowed.

Hunters may use firearms (except pistols), crossbows, or bow and arrows, in accordance with all applicable state and base regulations. They are required to check in and check out with the game wardens on a daily basis. This allows the wardens to see each animal taken and obtain detailed data on the species, number, sex, age, and condition of animals harvested; hunter success; and other parameters.

While not a common activity, Camp Pendleton allows hunters to field train hunting dogs with game birds during daylight hours between 1 July and 31 March. Hunters must ensure that the birds are not harmed or killed while training the dogs. All people planning to train hunting dogs on Base must have a CDFG permit and approval from Base game wardens. Hunters who are field training dogs during the hunting season may allow their dogs to practice pointing and flushing wild birds such as California quail (*Callipepla californica*).

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide a quality, sustainable hunting experience for military and civilian patrons within the constraints of the military mission and capability of the resources.

*Priority Planned Actions:*

- Submit Camp Pendleton quotas for deer tags, annually to the CDFG for approval. Ongoing.
- Ensure that staff responsible for implementing and enforcing the hunting program obtains training regarding the implementation and enforcement of laws and requirements relevant to hunting and other natural resource/conservation needs on Base. Ongoing.
- Establish informational booklets on game species programs. Update material as needed. 2002. [Also applies to Section 5.5.]



- Develop a Game Management Plan for small game, and upland game species (incorporating fisheries and deer management plans). 2003. [Also applies to Section 4.4.5.]

*Other Planned Actions:*

- Assess the feasibility and desirability of expanding the hunting program to include additional species. If desirable and feasible, coordinate changes through normal Base staffing procedures and the Base NEPA process. [Also applies to Section 4.4.5.] \*\*\*
- Evaluate possible measures for improving training area availability for the hunting program when areas are not in use by military training. \*

## **5.2.2 Recreational Fishing**

Fishing opportunities at Camp Pendleton range from surf fishing on authorized beaches to fresh water fishing at a variety of inland locations. Surf-fishing and diving for mollusks, crustaceans, and clams is permitted for military and civilian personnel on the beach area extending from the southern boundary of San Onofre State Park beach to the northern bank of the Santa Margarita River. Fishing from the northern Del Mar harbor jetty is permitted, and clamming is permitted at San Onofre Beach. The general public is allowed surf-fishing privileges. Take, possession, and season limitations of salt water fin fish and invertebrates are based on the CDFG regulations (although the Base may place further restrictions on these regulations for management purposes in the future). Specific fishing locations are provided when a Camp Pendleton Fishing Permit is purchased.

The fresh water game fish species found on Base include black (largemouth) bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), brown bullhead (*Ictalurus nebulosus*), green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), and black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*). Most fresh water species, including the exotic red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*), may be taken all year long. The invasive, exotic bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) may also be taken under recreational fishing regulations on Base. Although there are no length restrictions on most of the species, some have maximum takes. Inland fishing may be authorized at Horseshoe Lake, Case Spring ponds, Santa Margarita River (above Stewart Mesa Road in winter months only), Lake O'Neill, Whitman Pond, Pilgrim Creek Pond, Broodmare Ponds, Wildcat Ponds, Windmill Lake, and Las Flores Slough (from I-5 bridge west to the ocean) (Figure 5-1). Fishing is permitted at Pulgas Lake for catch and release only.

Fishing in designated inland ponds is available to active duty military personnel, DoD personnel, retired service members, dependents, and guests when accompanied by a sponsor. The number of military affiliates fishing in upland waters is unrestricted; however, patrons engaged in fishing must have a valid state fishing license. Licenses/permits are required for all persons 16 years of age and older. Currently, the general public is not permitted to

freshwater fish on Base, although the Base may issue Group Fishing Permits to organized groups. The general public is allowed surf-fishing privileges. All fishing participants may be assessed a fee established by the Commanding General.

In addition to compliance with the California Fish and Game laws, Camp Pendleton has restrictions that affect recreational fishing, such as ‘daylight fishing only’ in some areas, at some times, and license requirements at all fishing locations. Fishing at areas in training areas is limited to weekends, established holidays, and days next to holiday weekends when the Base provides multiple days off for military personnel. Inland fishing at Lake O’Neill is available year round and is not typically restricted for reasons pertaining to training. The Resources Enforcement/Compliance Branch stocks Lake O’Neill occasionally with exotic game fish, including largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, and channel catfish.

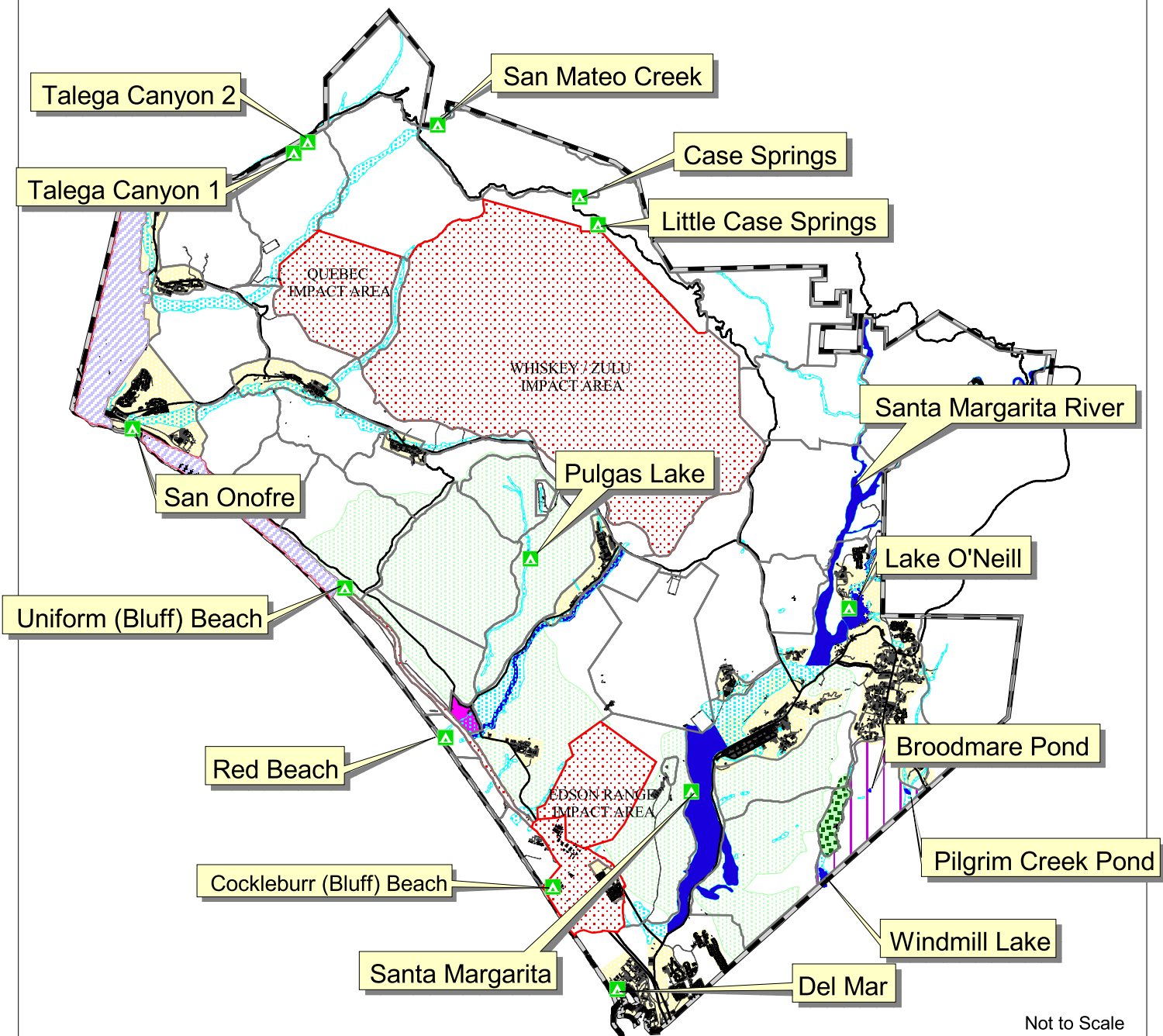
OBJECTIVE: Provide a quality, sustainable outdoor fishing experience for military and civilian patrons within the constraints of the military mission and capability of the resources.

*Priority Planned Actions:*

- Ensure that staff responsible for implementing and enforcing the fishing program obtain focused training (ideally, at or equivalent to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia) regarding the implementation and enforcement of laws and requirements relevant to fishing on Base. Ongoing.
- Evaluate the feasibility and desirability of expanding inland/freshwater fishing to the general public. 2004. [Also applies to Sections 4.4.5; 5.1.1.]
- Develop a Fisheries Management Plan to address the adverse impacts to Camp Pendleton’s fresh water lakes and ponds from siltation, stagnation, exotic species and aquatic plants. 2005. [Also applies to Section 4.4.5.]

*Other Planned Actions:*

- Conduct a Comprehensive Freshwater Fisheries Management Study. [Also applies to Section 4.4.5.] \*\*\*
- Complete a master plan for recreational and other uses of Lake O’Neill. [Also applies to Section 5.3.1.]\*\*
- Evaluate the feasibility and desirability of installing a low cost/maintenance water quality improvement system for Lake O’Neill. [Also applies to Section 4.4.5.] \*



Not to Scale

- Camp Pendleton Boundary
- Training Area Boundary
- Paved Roads & Parking Areas

#### Hunting/Fishing/Camping

- Open to Hunting of Legal Game Species (All State & Federal Laws Apply, Access Coordinated through AC/S ES, Resource Mgmt. Division)
- Fishing (All State & Federal Laws Apply, Access Coordinated through AC/S ES, Resource Mgmt. Division)
- Camping (Access Coordinated through AC/S ES, Resource Mgmt. Division)

- Restricted (No Hunting)
- Sheep Grazing Lease Areas

#### Public Access (No Hunting Allowed)

- Buildings, Roads and Parking Areas
- Horse Grazing Pasture
- San Onofre State Park
- Cantonment
- Historical Site
- Golf Course

**Figure 5-1  
Recreation and  
Public Access**



Map Source:  
AC/S Environmental Security  
GIS Branch  
October 2001



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### **5.3 OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE RELATED RECREATION**

MCB Camp Pendleton offers many natural resource related recreational opportunities beyond hunting and fishing, including developed and undeveloped camping, picnicking, beach and ocean use, equestrian activities, hiking, jogging, races, bicycling, etc.

GOAL: Provide mission compatible and ecologically sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life for military personnel and the general public.

GOAL: Ensure that natural resource related recreation is in compliance with all applicable environmental laws or their implementing regulations.

#### **5.3.1 Camping and Picnicking**

The San Onofre State Park has two campgrounds, one inland at the San Mateo section and one in the San Onofre section adjacent to sandstone cliffs. These sites are all open to the general public. The campground in the San Mateo section of the Park has 150 developed sites, showers, and hook ups for trailers and campers. The campground in the San Onofre section of the Park has 221 developed sites with cold, outdoor showers and hook ups for trailers and campers. San Onofre State Park is leased from Camp Pendleton and campsites are managed by the California State Parks. The management of San Onofre State Park campsites is completely separate from the management of campsites on the rest of Camp Pendleton.

Throughout the rest of the Base, developed camping opportunities are available to active and retired military, their dependents, civilian Base personnel, and guests. Cottages and campsites with electrical hook ups and picnic cabanas are available at the Del Mar and San Onofre Beaches. Recreational camping and picnic cabanas are also available at Lake O'Neill. The Lake O'Neill Campgrounds offer tent camping and developed campsites with water, electricity, and sewer hookups. The Lake O'Neill Peninsula is available for large group activities like promotions, retirements, and wedding receptions. This area has picnic cabanas, BBQ grills, a stage, electrical power, and athletic facilities. Bumper boats, paddleboats, and rowboats are available to rent.

Upland camping on Base is undeveloped with no toilets or water provided. Campers are required to obtain an annual camping permit and must coordinate campsite use with the game wardens to verify site availability. Up to 1,000 permits are issued per year on a first come, first served basis. In addition, group camping permits, valid for 4 days (primarily weekends and holidays), may be obtained from the Resources Enforcement/Compliance Branch. Seniors (>65 years old) and patrons with disabilities receive a fifty percent discount on camping fees.

The Resources Enforcement and Compliance Branch designates undeveloped recreational campsites (after coordination with Range Operations) that will not conflict with training

activities or natural resource management objectives. Currently, undeveloped recreational campsites may be available in the following upland locations: Talega Canyon, Uniform Beach bluffs, Pulgas Lake, Case Springs (larger and smaller ponds), and San Mateo Creek (Figure 5-1). Additional campsites occur within riparian and beach areas.

Depending upon location, campgrounds on Base are supervised by MCCA staff, the game wardens from RECB, and/or beach lifeguards. In addition, volunteer night host residing at the beach campgrounds assist with after hours supervision of those areas.

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide for a quality, sustainable camping and picnicking experience for military and civilian patrons within the constraints of the military mission and capability of the resources.

*Priority Planned Actions:*

- Promote the ‘undeveloped’ camping program to a maximum of 1,000 annual permits. Ongoing.
- Ensure patron awareness of, and compliance with, Base Order P11320.13D (Fire Protection Regulations and Instructions) regarding campfires, use of stoves, etc. Ongoing.
- Evaluate the potential costs, benefits, and feasibility of reestablishing recreational camping opportunities in the Cocklebur bluff area. If desirable and feasible, coordinate changes through normal Base staffing procedures and the Base NEPA process. 2003.

*Other Planned Actions*

- Complete a master plan for recreational and other land uses of Lake O’Neill. [Also applies to Section 5.2.2.] \*\*
- Evaluate the feasibility and desirability of establishing an agreement with the State Park to use campsites in the State Park when Base sites are occupied. \*

### **5.3.2 Beach and Ocean Use**

Camp Pendleton's land holdings include approximately 17 miles of beachfront; 40% of which is managed primarily for recreation by the Base or California State Parks. The leased acreage comprising the San Onofre State Park features approximately 4 miles of sandy beaches with six access trails from the bluffs above. It includes the famous “Trestles” surfing beach. The State Park provides public access year round and activities in the Park are administered by State Park personnel. The Park is popular with hikers, campers, swimmers,

and surfers. Nature observers may see whales, dolphins, and sea lions offshore. Birdwatching is primarily at the marshy area where San Mateo Creek meets the shoreline at Trestles Beach. The State Park has two campgrounds and a nature trail that starts at San Mateo Canyon and leads to San Mateo State Preserve/Trestles Beach.

In addition to the beach leased to and administered by the State Park, the Base administers Del Mar Beach and marina (at the southern end of the Base) and San Onofre Beach (to the north). Miles of recreational beach are accessible at these locations to active and retired military, their dependents, civilian Base personnel, and guests. Both beaches have cottages and campsites with electrical hook ups, picnic cabanas, and recreational equipment. Each beach has a bathhouse and lifeguards are on duty year-round. Del Mar and San Onofre beaches are open to the general public on July 4<sup>th</sup> every year as part of Independence Day celebrations.

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide for quality, sustainable recreational beach access for military and civilian patrons within the constraints of the military mission and capability of the resources.

*Priority Planned Actions:*

- Ensure all beach managers and lifeguards receive training with regard to the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations. Ongoing. [Also applies to Section 4.3.3.]
- Complete a master plan for recreational and other land uses of Del Mar Beach. 2004.

*Other Planned Actions:*

- Evaluate the level of unauthorized recreational usage of the beach and the potential impacts. If needed, develop possible solutions. [Also applies to Section 4.3.3.] \*\*\*
- Maintain the high level of quality of services at Del Mar and San Onofre Recreation Beach. Improve landscaping among the rental cabanas. \*\*
- Limit expansion of waterfront activities at all MCCS beaches and focus efforts towards improving existing programs and facilities. [Also applies to Section 4.3.3.] \*\*
- Develop a master plan for recreational and other land uses of San Onofre Beach. [Also applies to Section 4.3.3.] \*\*

### 5.3.3 Equestrian Program

The Base Stables provide equestrian activities for active and retired military personnel, their dependents, civilian Base personnel, and sponsored guests. Patrons may board horses, take riding lessons, and go on trail rides. The stables also host annual horse shows and professional rodeo events that are open to the general public. Patrons may ride horses along 15 miles of designated hillside and prairie trails. In addition, with prior clearance from the Resources Enforcement/Compliance Branch, horseback riders may use other areas of the Base. Associated with the stables are two pastures for horse grazing, pens and stalls for boarding the horses, three riding rings for training, and the rodeo grounds. The larger pasture is approximately 1,309 acres and covers much of the Lima training area. The smaller pasture, 123 acres, is adjacent to the stables. The rodeo grounds have established rings, pens, bleachers, etc. as well as associated undeveloped camping and parking sites (for trailering in animals).

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide quality, sustainable recreational equestrian opportunities for military and civilian patrons within the constraints of the military mission and capability of the resources.

#### *Priority Planned Actions:*

- Work with horse stable management personnel to minimize potential impacts on natural resources along horse riding trails. Ongoing.
- Evaluate horse grazing and prepare a plan to ensure the sustainability of the resources and the avoidance and minimization of adverse impacts to federally listed species. 2003. [Also applies to Section 4.10.1.]

### 5.3.4 Hiking, Jogging, and Bicycling

Recreational hiking and jogging are generally permissible throughout the Base for active duty military, retired service members, DoD employees, and dependents. However, impact areas, restricted areas, range firing and hunting areas when in use, areas closed to protect wildlife, and/or areas where troops are training are restricted. About once a month organized races are held on Base roads and trails, including the annual “Mud Run” (a 10-km route of rugged terrain, training obstacles, deep water, and mud) and “Ridge Run” (a 5 km route along steep terrain). The Base allows hikers to use primary and secondary roads, fire breaks, and designated hiking trails for recreational hiking and jogging subject to the above mentioned restrictions. Hikers must notify the game wardens and receive authorization to enter training areas prior to use on weekends and holidays.

Recreational biking on Base is only permitted for active duty military, retired service members, DoD employees, and dependents on established roads and trails, except for MCCS sponsored race events which are open to the general public. Bicycle riders must notify the



game wardens and receive authorization prior to entering any training area. Members of the general public may use the established bicycle transit corridor during daylight hours without prior authorization as a means of bypassing Interstate 5 between Oceanside and San Clemente. The San Onofre State Park also permits cyclists on established trails.

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide quality, sustainable hiking, jogging, bicycling, and races for military and civilian patrons within the constraints of the military mission and capability of the resources.

*Priority Planned Actions:*

- Identify and develop fitness walking, jogging, and running routes and maps for military personnel. 2003.

*Other Planned Actions:*

- Develop a brochure on Base hiking routes. \*\*
- Identify and develop bicycling routes and maps for military personnel. \*\*
- Explore the feasibility of charging a permit fee for natural resource tours, hikers, bicycling, and photography. \*\*
- Develop hiking opportunities in the San Mateo, Talega, and DeLuz areas. \*
- Explore the feasibility of a bicycle rental program through MCCS in cooperation with a community bicycle shop. \*

## **5.4 NONMILITARY OFF ROAD VEHICLES**

Nonmilitary off road vehicles are not authorized on Camp Pendleton. The term “off road vehicle” refers to any motorized vehicle designated for, or capable of, cross country travel on, or immediately over, land, water, sand, ice, marshes, swampland, or other natural terrain (HQMC 1998; EO 11644). Such activity is not considered consistent with the Base’s mission. This recreational use of the land frequently conflicts with military land use requirements, wise land management practices, environmental values, and other recreational activities. The restrictions of nonmilitary off road vehicle do not apply to official use by an employee, agent, or designated representative of the federal government or one of its contractors (EO 11644).

**OBJECTIVE:** Eliminate unauthorized, nonmilitary off road vehicle travel.

*Priority Planned Actions:*

- Review damage caused by unauthorized off road travel and incorporate into planned restoration efforts and routine maintenance. Ongoing. [Also applies to Section 4.7.2, first objective.]

*Other Planned Actions:*

- Repair perimeter fences and limit unauthorized access. \*\*\*

## **5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

The importance of educating Base residents, visitors, and the surrounding communities about Camp Pendleton's unique natural resources, stewardship initiatives, and contributions to regional conservation goals cannot be overstated. As far back as the early 1970's Camp Pendleton played host to many organizations and provided numerous group tours and lectures to the southern California Chapter of the Soil Conservation Service, San Diego County Agriculture Department, the University of California Davis School of Agriculture, and annual CDFG regional managers meetings. Other Base environmental awareness efforts included sponsoring Los Angeles Zoo field study classes on southern California reptiles, a University of California Riverside class on range grasses, SDSU students' master theses (e.g., oak woodlands), an Orange Coast College study on San Onofre Beach erosion and ecology, a University of California Los Angeles and USDA study on soils, plus many outdoor programs for youth group activities, school events, and Boy and Girl Scouts camp outs.

At present, environmental staff on Base conduct frequent slide presentations on natural resources and Base management programs to a variety of on-Base and off-Base groups such as conservation organizations, service groups and college classes. Base personnel also lead field trips to observe wildlife and discuss Base management programs. Events include an annual tour for the Friends of the Santa Margarita River and meetings conducted by the Biodiversity Research Consortium, National Research Council, and several regulatory agencies.

An objective of community outreach and educational programs has been, and continues to be, proper public environmental awareness and recognition of DoD stewardship. Awareness is accomplished through interpretive signs and programs, nature trails, and viewing areas. Interpretive signs and programs provide an opportunity to communicate natural resource information and value to users and visitors of Camp Pendleton. Special interest areas, such as where military activities are highly visible along I-5 and historic sites, offer a setting for education and orientation of the public. Access to cultural sites, however, must be limited to prevent vandalism.

To generate and celebrate environmental awareness and spread the message of support for environmental protection, Camp Pendleton annually participates in Earth Day events. For example, during 1998, a major Earth Day celebration was held on Base that involved live displays of native reptiles, birds and a variety of mammals that occur on Base. News articles are prepared periodically for the Base paper and interviews are given frequently to local newspapers. Staff also participates with local high schools in a School-to-Career program, orienting students monthly to the environmental compliance and natural resource management profession.

In addition, MCAS Camp Pendleton is organizing community participation in the nationally observed Arbor Day celebrations that encourage tree planting and tree care. Arbor Day celebrations are held in communities all over America, with the date determined by the best tree planting times in each area. Although traditionally Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday of April, in California, Arbor Day is celebrated within the week of March 7-14.

Although not an annual event, MCAS Camp Pendleton convened a symposium on conservation and management of the arroyo toad in the Fall of 2000 to (1) facilitate interaction and sharing of information regarding arroyo toad life history and management practices, (2) share information on the latest arroyo toad research, (3) identify future research needs, and (4) enhance toad and breeding habitat identification skills. More than 120 people attended the event, including representatives from six governmental agencies, academia, consultants, and interested citizens.

For land users and personnel on Camp Pendleton, the Environmental Training Branch within Environmental Security and the MCAS Environmental Department conduct periodic training needs assessments and coordinate the environmental education and training programs. The Environmental Training Branch prepares and presents education and training materials, conducts the senior commanders symposiums, and delivers the unit operations and logistics officers (S3 and S4) training program. This Branch also tracks all environmental training programs being conducted on Base, and ensures all training materials and course content meet or exceed quality standards, as established by Marine Corps Headquarters and Camp Pendleton's Commanding General.

The Environmental Training Branch is guided by the United States Marine Corps' Comprehensive Environmental Training and Education Program (CETEP). Devised in 1992, CETEP is a Headquarters Marine Corps sponsored program that was approved at the highest levels by both the USMC training (CG, MAGTEC) and environmental (Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics) functional commands. CETEP was designed to incorporate the development and program management aspects of the USMC Systems Approach to Training (SAT) and principles of Total Quality Leadership (TQL) into a program and program-development process to address the environmental training challenge Marine Corps-wide. The ultimate goal of CETEP is to ensure that appropriate environmental instruction and information are provided at all levels of the Marine Corps in the most effective manner to achieve full compliance with all environmental training requirements.

The five major components of CETEP are:

1. General environmental awareness training for all,
2. Marine Corps job specific training for all Marine Corps personnel,
3. Environmental information for Commanding Generals/Officers,
4. Training for environmental professionals,
5. Assess environmental training needs and evaluate the adequacy of training policies and programs to meet those needs.

Educational and training programs at Camp Pendleton serve as proactive measures to prevent violations of natural resource related laws and regulations. A natural resources orientation program for new personnel is under development that will include: (1) a short presentation on natural resources, (2) emphasis on the importance of protection of federally listed threatened and endangered species and archeological and historical resources, and (3) a reminder about Camp Pendleton's policy prohibiting off road vehicle activity that is not specifically authorized, including mountain bikes. Training programs will include educating existing and future Base personnel about natural resources and use of this INRMP.

The Mission Resource Conservation District under contract with the Riverside County Flood Control District provides elementary school education programs for watershed and stormwater awareness on Base. When Camp Pendleton obtains a Phase II municipal stormwater permit, it will likely contribute to the funding of this program as one of its best management practices under that permit.

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide natural resource awareness/education opportunities for military and civilian patrons on Base. Improve Base residents and regional awareness of the unique natural resources on Camp Pendleton, stewardship initiatives, laws and regulations, and natural resource related recreational and educational opportunities.

*Priority Planned Actions:*

- Participate in Earth Day celebrations with an exhibition or gathering at MCAS and the development of educational outreach programs for local schools. Ongoing.
- Participate in off-Base Earth Day celebrations with an exhibition and develop educational outreach programs for local schools. Ongoing.
- Commemorate Arbor Day with the ceremonial planting of trees. Ongoing.
- Establish informational booklets on game species programs. 2002. Update materials as needed. [Also applies to Section 5.2.1.]
- Develop interpretive facilities at the RV campsite south of the Santa Margarita River estuary and other campsites as appropriate. 2002.

- Develop a Camp Pendleton natural and cultural resource presentation to provide information and awareness to new Base personnel, interested community groups, and others. 2002. [Also applies to Section 5.1.1.]

*Other Planned Actions:*

- Install or replace interpretive signs describing significant natural resources at additional locations. \*\*\*
- Update and reissue the Camp Pendleton environmental awareness and information video. \*\*\*
- Develop an interpretive area focusing on Santa Margarita River habitat. \*\*
- Develop low-impact interpretive facilities at San Onofre recreation beach. \*\*
- Develop low-impact interpretive opportunities at Lake O'Neill, possibly including an environmental awareness trail around the lake. \*\*
- Identify opportunities to provide for public access to natural resources to demonstrate Camp Pendleton's success at conserving natural resources. [Also applies to Section 5.1.1.] \*

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